

**DELIBERATIVE– DO NOT RELEASE
REGION 6 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

TOPIC: Laplace-Chloroprene

DATE: February 21, 2020

PURPOSE/ACTION NEEDED: For Information

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DEADLINE DATE: None

BACKGROUND:

The [HYPERLINK "<https://www.epa.gov/national-air-toxics-assessment/2011-national-air-toxics-assessment>"], a national screening-level assessment, released in December 2015, estimated higher than expected levels of chloroprene in the community of LaPlace, LA.

Since 2016, EPA has been monitoring ambient air for chloroprene at six locations in the community.

EPA's 2014 NATA, released in August 2018, showed revised estimated lifetime cancer risks in LaPlace LA of 2,000-in-1 million. EPA's general guideline of acceptable risk is approximately 100-in-1 million. The elevated risk in LaPlace appears to be from chloroprene emissions from the Denka Performance Elastomer, LLC facility (Denka) and ethylene oxide emissions from other facilities in the local area.

In December 2017, DPE completed installation of a regenerative thermal oxidizer, two condensers, and equipment upgrades and controls for vents and fugitive emissions to reduce emissions of chloroprene. Denka estimated that the controls reduced emissions by 85%. Since March 2018, air sampling results have shown a substantial reduction in chloroprene emissions from all monitoring locations. In February 2019, the frequency of sample collection became once every six days.

ENVIRONMENTAL/PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS:

Chloroprene is a likely carcinogen, with projected rate of cancer increase when concentrations exceed 0.2 ug/m^3 on a continuous basis for lifetime exposure. Chloroprene has a projected non-cancer lifetime exposure rate increase when concentrations exceed 20 ug/m^3 on a continuous basis.

REGULATORY/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

R6 will also be supporting a Louisiana cancer incidence study in the LaPlace neighborhoods through multi-purpose grants to LDH & LDEQ. The grant processing is currently in progress.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

The community is concerned that average levels of chloroprene still exceeding EPA levels of concern.

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION:

On June 26, 2017 Denka submitted a Request for Reconsideration (RfR) contesting the EPA-ORD 2010 Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) Toxicological Review of Chloroprene.

On July 17, 2019, ORD acknowledged receipt of supplemental information from Denka concerning the model supporting their request for reconsideration of the 2010 EPA-ORD IRIS value for chloroprene.

In that acknowledgement, ORD stated they were pausing reconsideration of Denka's request until after the peer review results regarding Denka's submitted model were fully assessed. EPA estimated it would take a minimum of nine months to complete the IRIS quality assurance and peer review processes.

EPA will then review and assess the results of these reviews and convene an Executive Panel to reconsider EPA's response to Denka's request for correction. This Executive Panel will make the final decision on the RFR. ORD anticipates completion of the quality assurance review in the near future and then the peer review process can proceed.